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## BATTLE OF THE BEAVER DAMS.

Dear Berstler to the People of the U. States.

Immediately after the close of the war with Great Britain, I left the United States for South America, and have since been to Europe; my return I deeply regret to find, that slander and misrepresentation have not yet ceased to assail me in regard to the "battle of the Beaver Dams," which took place in Upper Canada in June 1813.

A respect for those, whose

name I value, induces me there-

fore, at this distant period of time,

to publish the following "statement of facts" deduced by an honourable

counselor from the testimony

of numerous witnesses, and the "op-

position" of that court founded on

the facts; believing confidently

that this will be sufficient to con-

vince all candid minds, that although

I have not been want-

ing in my duty to my country. Ever-

since the statement and false account

of the affair of the "Beaver-dams,"

having been given to the public, the

editors of periodical publications &

newspapers, are earnestly solicited

to aid the cause of justice, by in-

forming this document.

David Ridgely,  
Annapolis, April 11, 1816.

N. B. All persons are hereby for-

warned harbouring said negro at their

peril.

3.—The Editors of the Federal

Republican, Frederick-Town Herald

and National Intelligencer, will have

the above once a week for six weeks

forward their accounts to this office.

## The Subscriber

Hereby gives notice, that he has this day sold out all his interest of in-

to, the late concerns of Ridgely &

Weems, Ridgely Weems, & Co., also Ridgely & Weems's last concern

to Mr Absalom Ridgely.

James Weems,  
Annapolis, April 2, 1816.

All those indebted to the above men-

tioned concerns are hereby requested

to make immediate payment to Wm

field and Ridgely, who are authorized

to settle the same.

Absalom Ridgely.

April 4, 1816.

This is to give notice,

That the subscriber has obtained

from the Orphans court of Anne-Ar-

del county, letters of administration

on the personal estate of Freder-

ick M'Kubin, late of said county, deceased.

All persons having claims against

the estate are requested to produce them

properly authenticated & those in due

time to make payment.

James M'Kubin, Adm'r.

April 11, 1816.

## Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias

me directed from Anne Arundel

court, will be exposed to public sale

on Friday the third day of May,

James Hunter's tavern, in the city

Annapolis, at 12 o'clock, for sale

to the right, first, interest and claim

of Samuel Wood, of William,

to a tract or parcel of land whereon

the said Wood now resides, known

by the name of Broughton Ashley,

containing one hundred and six acres

more or less; taken and will be

sold to satisfy a debt due Elizabeth

Hodges, Thomas Hodges, and R. Estep,

administrators of Charles D.

Hodges. 3. R. Welch, of Ben Sh.

A. A. County.

This is to give notice,

That the subscriber of Anne-Ar-

del county hath obtained from the

Orphans court of Anne-Arundel county

in Maryland, letters testamentary

on the personal estate of Henry B.

Pingot, late of Anne-Arundel county,

deceased. All persons having claim

against the said deceased, are hereby

warned to exhibit the same, with the

vouchers thereof, to the subscriber,

or before the first day of October next,

they may otherwise by law be exclud-

ed from all benefit of the said execu-

tion. Given under my hand this 29th day

of March 1816.

John Sappington, Factor

April 14, 1816.

And the advanced posts of the enemy, three in number, were—

1. At St. Catharine's on the lake road, nine and an half miles from Fort George, and deemed the strongest, lieut. col. De Herrn commanding.

2. At twenty-mile creek, sixteen & a half miles from Fort George, lt. col. Bishop commanding.

3. At De Coos stone house, seventeen and a half miles from Fort George, via Queenston, and sixteen via St. Catharine's, lieut. Fitz Gibbon commanding; and in advance of this post, one and an half miles from it, and near the road leading to it, a camp of 450 or 500 Indians, of which nothing had been known.

A plan of the ground is submitted to shew the relative positions of these posts, how they supported each other at the distance of six or seven miles, lying in the form of a triangle, and the point to be attacked the most distant of the three.

The intermediate country between the two armies was, in general, covered with thick wood.

No force was sent out to amuse or divert lieut. cols. De Herrn and Bishop, while the post at De Coos should be attacked. A simultaneous movement had been planned against St. Catharine's (lieut. col. De Herrn) but was not executed.

The expedition under lieut. col. Berstler appears to have been founded upon intelligence derived from capt. Chapin. His information is proved to have been erroneous.

The guide furnished to conduct the expedition was the same capt. Chapin; and at nine or ten miles from Fort George he was, or appeared to be, ignorant of the roads. Lieut. col. Berstler took an inhabitant of the country and compelled him to become the guide.

The detachment was ordered to lay at Queenston on the night of the 23d, and to march early the next morning. It did so; laying upon its arms, in silence, without lights and having taking precautions to avoid surprise, and to prevent the country people from carrying intelligence to the enemy.

On the march, advance and rear guards, with flankers from each side, were kept constantly out. Captain Chapin's mounted men formed the advanced guard, and frequently pushed out patrols in search of discoveries.

Between eight and nine o'clock, morning of the 24th, at a place called the "Beaver Dams," a mile and a half in advance of De Coos, the enemy's Indians were first discovered, issuing from the woods in the rear of the detachment, and running across the road upon which it had marched. The action commenced immediately; and the column quickly forming into two lines, fought at the same time to the front and to the rear. Lieut. colonel Berstler was at the head of the first, and major Taylor at the head of the second.

The action continued upwards of 8 hours. The American troops contended with a superior force of Indians, British regulars and provincials. Several changes of position, rendered necessary by circumstances, had been ordered, and executed in an orderly and military manner; and every officer was at the head of his command, and every company did its duty, a majority of the mounted gun-men and their commander excepted.

But the ammunition had been nearly expended—all the boxes had been exhausted of their cartridges, and replenished from the wagon, and again nearly exhausted; the wagon itself was emptied, or nearly so; the artillery had but two or three rounds of cannister, and a small number of round shot remaining.

The heat of the day was oppressive, and the men exhausted with the length of the action and the march of the morning.

Seventy or eighty of the detachment were killed or wounded—lieut. col. Berstler, captain Mackay, captain Cummings and lieutenants Marshall and Randall were among the latter.

About noon, lieut. col. De Herrn arrived from St. Catharine's, and brought with him 150 infantry, 25

or 30 dragoons, and some providentials.

The enemy occupied in force the road upon which the detachment had marched.

Lieut. col. Berstler collected the effective of his command, formed them into column, and gave in person his orders and the explanation of his object, "to clear the road by a charge & retreat to Fort George." His force under arms was diminished one third; not altogether by death and wounds, but partly from the various causes which conspire to thin the ranks of all troops during an engagement. All the wounded were brought to the centre of the column, and there were but 2 wagons to receive them.

When the column was ready to be put in motion, a British officer advanced and demanded its surrender; the demand was instantly and decisively rejected by colonel Berstler: the officer retired and presently returned with a renewal of the demand, stating the great superiority of his force, and proposing that an American officer should be sent to view them. Lieut. Kearney, of the 14th infantry, was accordingly sent, but a senior officer having come upon the ground, refused to permit the examination, but renewed the demand for a surrender—it was added that the American wounded could then be protected, but if the action recommenced they (the British officers) could not be responsible for the conduct of the Indians.

Lieut. col. Berstler referred to the officers about him for their opinion, they deemed it advisable to surrender if honourable terms could be had, and the detachment was accordingly surrendered prisoners of war, the officers retaining their horses, arms and baggage.

The force of the enemy at the time of the surrender amounted to 7 or 800 men, comprising between 450 and 500 Indians, about 300 regular and provincial infantry, 25 or 30 dragoons, and a small number of fencibles; and exclusive of 250 infantry, following lieut. col. Bishop from Twenty Mile creek, and arrived near the ground at the close of the action.

And it does not appear; but the contrary is proved (so far as a negative can be proved) that lieut. col. Berstler sent any message to Fort George to demand reinforcements, and to say that he would maintain his ground until they arrived.

Whereupon the court respectfully submit to the honourable the secretary of war, the following

## OPINION.

That the march of the detachment from Fort George to the "Beaver Dams" on the 23d and 24th June, 1813, under the command of Lt. col. Berstler, was selected to go upon this identical expedition; for the then adjutant-general has testified before the court that it was not Col. Berstler's regular tour of duty, agreeably to the roster.

## HORRORS OF CARTHAGENA.

Copy of a letter from Don Juan de Dios Amador, late Governor of Carthagena, to Don Francisco Garcia del Piero, New Orleans.

Kingston, Jan: 15, 1818.

My Esteemed Nephew.—It would take me very long to give you the particulars of what took place after your departure, and to describe the horrors of famine by which numbers daily perished.

After the greatest instances of heroism on the part of the people, we were forced to an evacuation as disastrous as any recorded in history.

The greatest weight of common calamity seems to have fallen on our family. As to what befel myself during a passage of 34 days from Carthagena to this island, I will only observe that capt. Mitchell who commanded the schr. Gen. Castillo, on board of which I made one of 80 passengers, after having despoiled us of all our money, gold, silver, jewels and precious stones, put us on shore in the island of Providence, whence we at last arrived here in the miraculous manner you shall learn when we meet again, and I can with more composure relate you my adventures.

(Signed) JAMES P. PRESTON,  
Col. 23d Inf.

President of Court of Inquiry.

Attest. Lewis B. Willis, Capt.

12th Infantry,

Recorder to the court.

A copy of the articles of capitulation is subjoined, as also a part

of Maj. Gen. Lewis's deposition:

Particulars of the capitulation made between Capt. McDowell, on the part of Lt. Col. Berstler, of the United States army, and Major De Herrn, of His Britannic Majesty's Canadian regiment on the part of Lt. Col. Bishop, commanding the advance of the British respecting the surrender of the force under the command of Lt. Col. Berstler:

24th June, 1813.

First. That Lt. Col. Berstler and the force under his command, shall surrender prisoners of war.

Second. That the officers shall retain their horses, arms and baggage.

Third. That the non-commissioned officers and soldiers shall have any communication with the shore, from which a boat was sent for the papers; and the answer to them is said to be unpleasant; hence it is thought the town is afflicted with executions.